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ONE HUNDRED TWELFTH CONGRESS

# Congress of the United States

## House of Representatives

### COMMITTEE ON ENERGY AND COMMERCE

2125 RAYBURN HOUSE OFFICE BUILDING

WASHINGTON, DC 20515-6115

Majority (202) 225-2927  
Minority (202) 225-3641

February 9, 2011

The Honorable Kathleen Sebelius  
Secretary  
Department of Health and Human Services  
The Hubert H. Humphrey Building  
200 Independence Avenue, S.W.  
Washington, D.C. 20201

Dear Secretary Sebelius:

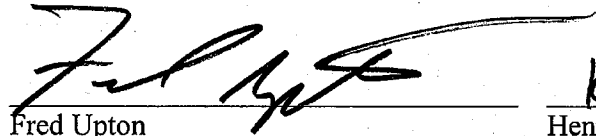
Pursuant to Rules X and XI of the United States House of Representatives, the Committee on Energy and Commerce is requesting information on the operations of the Office of Biomedical Advanced Research and Development Authority (BARDA). BARDA was established in April 2007 to help ensure the American public's safety in the event of a terrorist attack or epidemic disease. To better understand BARDA's operations, we would appreciate it if the appropriate officials from your office could meet with Committee staff to provide a briefing by February 18, 2011. We understand you have recently met with some of the Committee's staff, but an Oversight and Investigations Subcommittee briefing may raise different issues.

Among BARDA's most important responsibilities are the purchase and development of vaccines, drugs, therapies, and diagnostic tools for public health emergencies. Those public health emergencies could include chemical, biological, radiological, and nuclear terrorist attacks as well as natural threats, such as pandemic flu or other infectious diseases. To meet these needs, BARDA has been tasked with managing a \$5.6 billion special reserve fund, approximately \$2.2 billion of which was allocated for FY2009-2013.

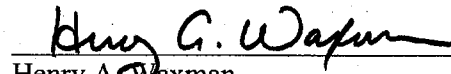
Given the importance of protecting the public's health in the event of a terrorist attack or infectious disease outbreak, as well as ensuring the money budgeted to meet these threats is spent effectively, the Committee would like to learn more about BARDA's operations. We would appreciate it if this briefing would include an overview of BARDA's programs, goals, results, contracting policies, and budget. To the extent that the briefing may raise issues that are not in the public domain, we are requesting this briefing under the authority provided to the Chairman of the Committee under House rules.

The Committee requests that a meeting occur at our earliest mutual convenience. To schedule the briefing, please contact the Majority Committee staff Todd Harrison or Alan Slobodin at (202) 225-2927 and Minority Committee staff Kristin Amerling at (202) 225-3641.

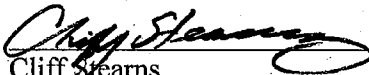
Sincerely,



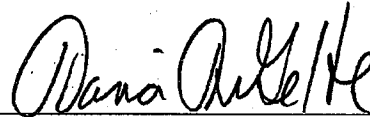
Fred Upton  
Chairman



Henry A. Waxman  
Ranking Member



Cliff Stearns  
Chairman  
Subcommittee on Oversight and  
Investigations



Diana DeGette  
Ranking Member  
Subcommittee on Oversight and  
Investigations